



The newsletter of the Australian Rainforest Foundation

March 2010

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**Win the Best Holiday in the World has been drawn.....**

The Australian Rainforest Foundation (ARF) and supporters would like to extend their congratulations to the winners of the Win the Best Holiday:-

***Jon Bartlett of Surrey, UK***  
***Ben Mohammed of Cairns, Australia***  
***Michelle Burke of Fernandina Beach, USA***

We are eagerly awaiting their arrival to commence their holiday in our part of the world. Go to the website at <http://www.winthebestholiday.com> to see what options they have to choose from, including reef and rainforest adventures, relaxation, accomodation and wildlife tours.



### Big day out for the cassowary chicks

Huey, Dewey and Louie are regular visitors to the ARF caretakers residence in the Daintree. Pictured here foraging with their dad around the native fruit orchard on the property. We are delighted to see them alive and well every time their father decides to show them off.

The cassowary invests substantial time in paternal care of its young, up to nine months, yet despite this extended period of care, they have a low juvenile /sub-adult survival rate.

The Daintree district located in Australia's wet tropical rainforest of far north Queensland, is one of the most important areas for cassowaries in the Wet Tropics bioregion but is under extreme pressure from an array of threats. While Australian and Queensland State legislation has regulated clearing of cassowary habitat, urbanisation and residential development continues to threaten the viability of cassowary populations as habitat continues to be incrementally cleared or severely modified.

You can help the Cassowary by donating to the ARF's Operation Big Bird project. There are many ways to contribute towards the wildlife corridor the ARF is extending, protecting and recovering.

- \* Adopt a Square at \$1 a square meter (min \$25)
- \* Give a tree in the Forest of Life (\$98.00)
- \* Become a Hero through your payroll
- \* Sponsor a rainforest block
- \* Adopt a Cassowary
- \* or simply by making a donation.



Go to <https://www.arf.net.au/help.html>

*A Dad and his three chicks at an ARF property in the Daintree March 2010.*

## Easter gift ideas with a difference



### Cassowary Egg Candles

Are you looking for a unique Easter gift? Do you want something that has more meaning than the usual chocolate? Then the ARF has it.

Created in partnership with the ARF and Cairns Candle Factory artist and sculptor, Jo Hardie. This beautiful gift has been moulded from a real cassowary egg.

Each candle is individually hand made from 100% natural wax and scented with certified organic Australian essential oils. At only \$40.00 each, it is an affordable gift idea.

Proceeds go directly towards Operation Big Bird. The egg stands 13cm.

## A new product to help raise funds for the Cassowary

Crafted by New Zealand ceramic artist, Bob Steiner, exclusively for the Australian Rainforest Foundation.

Representing new life, these unique pieces are a wonderful gift for the birth of a new family member, a friend's birthday, or for a christening. People have been ordering them for Easter as well - this low fat egg option not wrapped in garish alfoil is a great idea at \$44.95 each.

The eggs come in a green or cream glaze. Each piece measures 15cm in length and stands 9-10cm high. Go to the ARF shop to get the Cassowary Egg Candle or the exquisite ceramic Cassowary Egg in a Leaf at [www.arf.net.au/merchandise/](http://www.arf.net.au/merchandise/)



*Ceramic Cassowary eggs in a furred leaf symbolizes new life.*

## Tree Planting update.....



Rain rain go away.... no we need the rain to help the trees planted at the end of 2009 to grow, however it is not helping the new trees we have waiting in the nursery to go in the ground.

As you can see in this photo, taken from the door of our caretaker's residence in the Daintree, there is a lot of rain everywhere in the area. The average rainfall in this area is around four meters. Yes we measure our rain in meters not mm.

Not only is the rain helping our trees already in the ground, its also helping the weeds grow too. This photo (R) shows how high the grass has grown in a very small time frame. In two months it has regrown over our prepared area. We have a lot of work ahead to clear the ground again for planting at the first possible opportunity. You can see some of the work already done at the George Mansford Reserve at [www.arf.net.au/mansfordreserve/](http://www.arf.net.au/mansfordreserve/).



## A regular visitor needs a name

This female Cassowary is a recent addition to the visiting wildlife we have at our Daintree Property. Standing around 1.8 meters tall, she is a regular guest who has a very healthy appetite for the rainforest fruit growing around the property.

The dad, his brood of chicks and this huge female often arrive together. It is highly unusual to see a female and male together, but they seem quite content in each other's company foraging for food on our properties.

Give us your suggestion for a name for this Cassowary and we'll send the winner a mystery gift from our Rainforest Shop and announce the new name in the next newsletter. Send your suggestions to [info@arf.net.au](mailto:info@arf.net.au).



*Nameless female*

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## Rainforest Shop on line

The Rainforest Shop has had a major over haul over the past few months. The shop has a new design, new products and the best ideas for conservation based gifts. All the funds raised from the sale of the shop go towards saving the environment through one of the many projects the ARF is undertaking.

We have already given you two gift ideas for Easter. Here are some of the new products we have in the shop, including timber carvings, jewellery and more plush toys to add to your collection. We have more amazing flavours and scents arriving to add to our soap, incense and candle ranges.



Large Plush Turtles  
27cm  
\$23.95 ea



Cassowary Brooch  
4cm h x 3 cm w  
pewter \$22.95  
available in 3 different  
finishes.



Rainbow Sands Candle  
9cm h \$14.95  
Other varieties  
available.



Camphor Carvings  
Pelican \$52.50 19cm  
Gecko \$30.00 27cm  
Platypus \$52.50 29cm,  
and at 30cm tall is the  
Hook of Plenty \$82.50

Go to [www.arf.net.au/merchandise](http://www.arf.net.au/merchandise) to see these and other gifts that give twice....

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## Recreating the Rainforest

The Australian Rainforest Foundation is currently planting 10,000 trees which is the result of our current fundraising. Each tree will help create habitat for many rare, threatened and endangered species and starts our efforts to recreate the rainforest.

As we endeavour to keep our members and supporters informed of our current fundraising initiatives, program updates and achievements, we ask you to go to our website to view all the current information and images. Please do not hesitate to contact us for any information or ideas you may want share or participate in.